



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

The room at the St. Joseph Community Blood Center remains empty as a blood shortage continues at hospitals nationwide. The Community Blood Center usually receives spikes of donors during the morning but stays dry in the afternoon.

Students step up during substitute teacher shortages

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

When student teaching, Northwest students are encouraged to get their substitute license because it is a good way to make money while getting more experience outside of the classroom. Now more than ever, student teachers are using their substitute licenses while schools nationwide are battling substitute teacher shortages because of COVID-19.

Early last November, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education loosened its rules on the certification process for substitute teachers in response to the shortage.

This problem didn't just start at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester; the DESE has been making changes to the substitute certification process since the pandemic began. It decided to withdraw the amendment that said there needed to be review on the effectiveness of online training for substitute teachers. Changing this allows online instruction for people to obtain their licenses.

After changes to the certification process, anyone who is looking to become a certified substitute teacher must have 60 hours or more of college credit from a DESE-recognized school. After the change, people can now take a 20-hour online training instead of the 60 credit hours.

BLOOD CRISIS

Local donation center impacted by national shortage, seeks more donors

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

At the beginning of the year, the Red Cross declared for the first time in over a decade that there is a national blood crisis due to fewer donors and fewer consistent blood drives.

Betsy Tinker, account manager for the Community Blood Center in northwest Missouri and east Kansas, said the blood bank is feeling the effects of not being allowed to sponsor drives due to the pandemic.

"It's a very scary situation because, like I said, it's not just here; it's everywhere," Tinker said. "A lot of places won't let us come in. One of our largest donations in Kansas City used to be Cerner, but all of them are working from home now. That really hurt."

Other blood drives were impacted due to weather, causing more of a downfall in numbers than seen just due to COVID-19.

The Community Blood Center needs 580 units of blood a day to supply to dozens of hospitals around northwest Missouri and east Kansas. Included

in those is Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, of which its sole provider of blood is the CBC.

Tinker said that even though 580 units of blood a day is its goal to meet so they can supply to medical centers, the CBC is not meeting it.

"We're not doing that, and there isn't probably a blood center around that is doing that," she said.

To get more donations, the Community Blood Center also hosts all of the blood drives at Northwest. Donations from the college help tremendously in reaching the CBC's goal, Tinker said, but recently, the center has seen drops in student donations.

In previous years, Northwest's goal has been set at 100 units of blood each day during a blood drive. In the last few years, the goal has decreased by half.

"We can usually be able to depend on them to bring in that 100 units each day," she said. "Ever since the pandemic has been around and more kids are doing school from home, not on campus classes, that has really hurt the blood supply that we collect up there."

SEE BLOOD | A4

SEE TEACHER | A4

Pandemic infects retail sales at local shops

KENDRICK CALFEE
Editor-in-Chief | @calfec_kc

Kyle Mayes flips the switch on his shoe-sander machine. Under the incandescent lights elevated behind his front counter, the sanding belt surges to life, and he begins another repair. It's an ordinary Tuesday, and his hands grip a high-end boot, the life of which one customer hopes can be extended through the next year.

This is the part of his business he can always rely on, Mayes said. After all, it's a 108-year-old tradition. So far, this part of his business hasn't been shrouded by a pandemic economy. People still need good shoes.

"It's about making them last as long as possible, maybe a lifetime," Mayes said.

A year ago, foot traffic at small businesses in Nodaway County was down 40-60% — a number the Nodaway County Economic Development Corporation tried to cut down, but it has had little success doing so.

For business owners like Mayes, who has owned and operated Cobbler Cottage since 1980, the foot traffic issue has led to significant dips in retail sales. And

it's not a problem unique to the county. Experts are saying COVID-19's impact on markets left what could be a lasting impact on small business, particularly ones based in retail.

Mayes said he is grateful for the fact he can make a living on just his hands. He has still been fixing things like shoes, bags, coveralls and zippers on clothing items. What concerns him is just how bad retail has gotten.

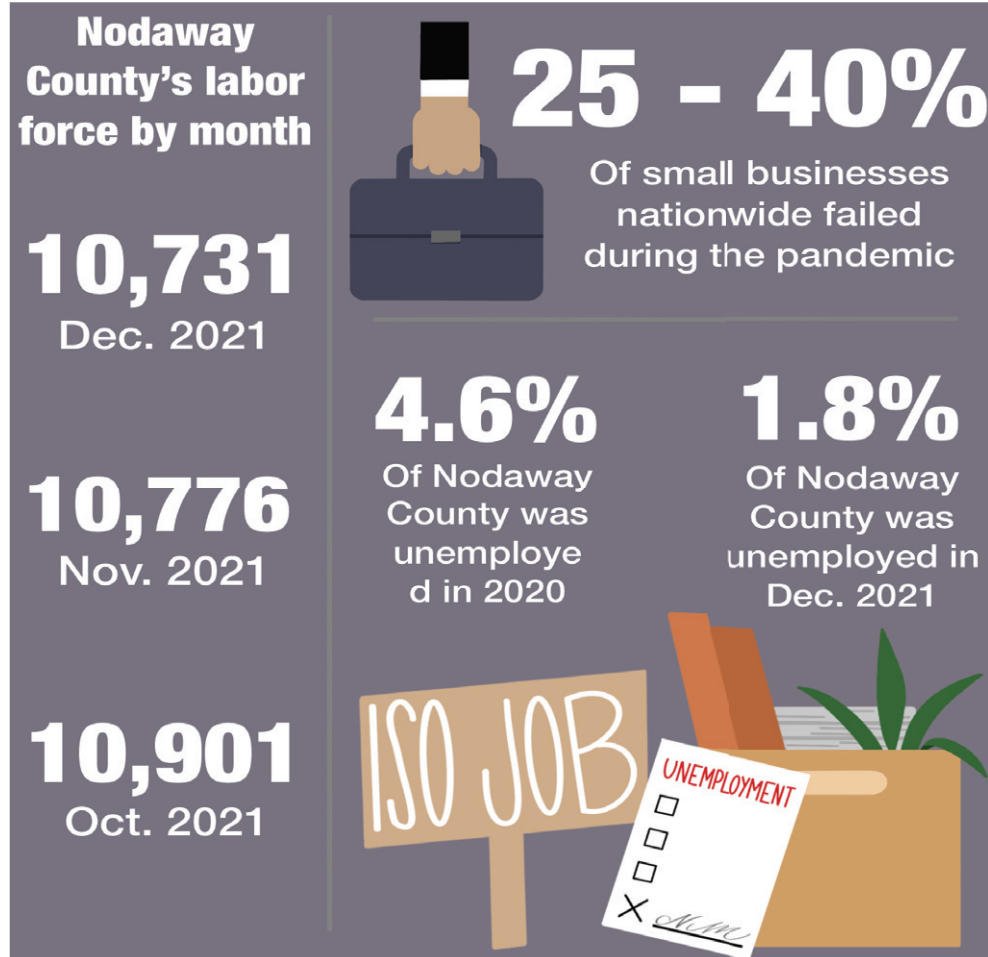
"There's just not the foot traffic ... people go online, you know," Mayes said. "They like to come to me and order, even if they have to order. But ..." Mayes trailed off, peeking out his tinted storefront windows. It was just a passerby. "... But if they can't get it in a reasonable amount of time, they go online, and you can't blame them for that."

"It's a changed world. I don't know if it'll go back," Mayes said.

A few steps down the sidewalk from Cobbler Cottage sits Minnie Lane. Less than a week from Valentine's Day, owner Melody Blair sorts vintage, collectible valentine cards at the front counter.

SEE COUNTY | A4

A SNAPSHOT OF THE COUNTY'S ECONOMY



SOURCE: FEDERAL RESERVE ECONOMIC DATA

GRAPHIC BY MAKAYLA POLAK DESIGN EDITOR

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UPD welcomes Northwest student as new officer

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

There is a new face at the University Police Department. Northwest student Joseph Huddleston has become the newest officer to join the ranks. “I’m actually a very friendly person that can relate to a lot of things that especially students go through on campus because I am a student myself, and I’ve been there. I’ve been in that situation before, and I just really enjoy helping people,” Huddleston said. Huddleston, originally from Kearney, Missouri, is a junior who is majoring in criminology. He previously worked at the Maryville Treatment Center for six months before being hired as a UPD officer. This is a job he had wanted to do for a long time, Hud-

dleston said, and he was excited to have the opportunity to be on the UPD, having been on campus as a student since 2019. The new job will bring significant changes for the junior, he said. The time of shifts and size of the area he’s tasked with are chief among them. “It was a difficult transition from working nights at the prison to days with the Police Department, and part of it is you deal with so many different people. I switched from being around people that were convicted to just seemingly normal people,” Huddleston said. Some strengths Huddleston hopes to bring to his new job, he said, are the willingness to talk to anybody and solve problems, as well as background knowl-

edge on what to look for when someone seems like they’re doing things they shouldn’t. Huddleston said a benefit of being a student here at Northwest and a member of the UPD at the same time is that it will make him more approachable to other students on campus. However, one of the problems he said he might have to face is that he might not be taken as seriously as the other officers due to his young age. Another challenge for most college students is balancing student and work life. In terms of this, Huddleston is confident he will be able to do so, he said, and that it will become easier as he gets more used to the job. University Police Chief Clarence Green said he believes Huddleston will be an



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
University Police Chief Clarence Green announces the hiring and approval of a new UPD officer at the Board of Regents meeting Feb. 26.

asset to the Northwest community because of his focus on education paired with the experiences he will gain from working at UPD. “Officer Huddleston will bring a skill set that allows him to connect with students by having an understanding of their experiences,” Green said. “He will offer fresh solutions at preventing and solving crime and addressing behavior that is not consistent

Northwest offers relationship, sexual health resources

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

Valentine’s Day is around the corner, and Northwest Green Dot Coordinator Ben Moran wants couples to remember that Valentine’s Day is a chance to connect with your partner, both romantically and sexually, through communication and consent. “The biggest thing that people should know when it comes to sex and healthy relationships is communication and consent,” Moran said. “Those two seize the idea of being open and honest and talking about where you’re at, where you want to be, and what that looks like in a relationship, whether you’re just looking for a hookup or something lax, or you’re looking for something more committed and more steady, communicate that; do that effectively.” Northwest Green Dot is a program

committed to preventing on-campus violence in all its forms and providing a secure campus environment and culture for all students, staff and faculty. As Green Dot coordinator, Moran works with Wellness Services as the sexual violence prevention coordinator. Moran helps with students in the areas of sexual assault and domestic violence. He also hosts workshops and events, such as Green Dot training, as well as Sex in the Ballroom, a sexual health event held in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. Moran advises students to know their limits and boundaries for relationships ahead of Valentine’s Day. He also said consent is a big part of that. “If someone’s not giving you consent or it feels like they’re not in it, then don’t push those boundaries,” he said. “In all relationships, consent and communication are the two things you want to talk about.”

Moran helped install the free condom dispensers in every residential hall last October. The Buchanan County Health Department, based in St. Joseph, Missouri, received a federal grant for HIV/HPV prevention and reached out to Northwest. “In about three months, we’ve handed out about 3,000 condoms – just in the resident halls alone,” Moran said. “Even if they’re not all being used properly, the reality of that is people are using these to be safer. It cuts down on STDs; it cuts down unplanned pregnancies.” Moran said the dispensers’ presence in the residential halls conveys a message of consent, and if you feel like the victim of assault, violence or stalking, you can get in contact with Wellness Services. Although the dispensers in the residential halls simply give away free condoms, you can still get latex-free con-

doms, internal female condoms and dental dams at Wellness Services. Moran said Valentine’s Day is more about connecting with your partner, sexual or not. The most important idea is to advocate for yourself, Moran said, and put yourself in the position to keep you and others safe. “You decide your boundaries,” he said. “If you go on a date with someone or if you spend time with someone, understand that in no way, shape or form do you owe anyone anything.” “We want to focus on healthy relationships, not just sex,” Moran said. “February is Healthy Relationships Month. A lot of people think Valentine’s Day is all about hookups and sex, but it’s more than just that. It’s about truly connecting with those you’re with.”

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COVID-19 cases see substantial decline

NATHAN ENGLISH
Managing Editor I | @nathan_3nglish

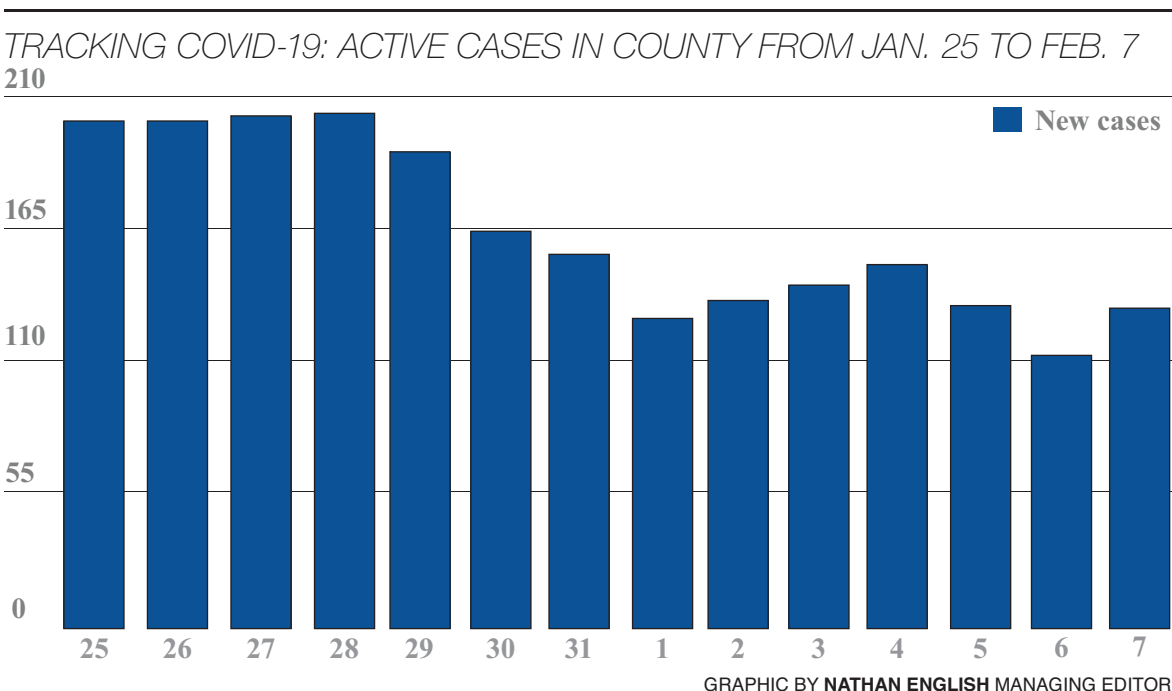
Since last week, technical difficulties have plagued the Nodaway County Health Department. NCHD Administrator Tom Patterson said issues with fax machines, internet connectivity problems and more have made the already difficult job of managing public health during COVID-19 even more difficult. But this week, a constant noise reverberating throughout the office since the start of 2022 became less consistent. The phones were quieter.

The county, and the state as a whole, appears to be on the downward slope of a record virus surge in January. Active cases of COVID-19 — 125 at the time of publication — are at their lowest point since the first week of the first month of the year.

“It feels good to be trending in that direction instead of upward,” Patterson said.

Cases are down about 40% in the last seven days compared to the seven days prior in the state as omicron appears to lose its hold on the Show-Me State. Northwest has less than 30 active cases of the virus for the first time since Jan. 4.

Lt. Amanda Cullin, a member of the Crisis Response Team 2, a



group that spearheads COVID-19 information at the University, said the team is transitioning from “crisis mode” brought on by the omicron surge to more normal day-to-day operations it has maintained throughout the pandemic.

The variant has been more aggressive and contagious than its predecessors, but it has not caused severe illnesses at the same rate.

Nate Blackford, president of Mosaic - Maryville, said the hospital had around 600 positive COVID-19 cases in January 2021, with hospitalizations from the virus hovering around 13-15 during that span. With over 1,000 positive cases in the past month, hospitalizations from the virus never reached double digits.

“(I’m) just impressed by, or intrigued by, the degree to which the variants truly were different and truly are different,” Blackford said.

Vaccinations also contribut-

ed to the lower number of severe illnesses. Nearly 48% of county residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and a little over 42% of those individuals have received their third dose. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Monday that 45% of adults over the age of 18 in the U.S. had received a booster shot.

“I guess it’s a little bit of you’ve come this far, might as well finish the race,” Blackford said of vaccinated individuals who had not received their booster.

Booster doses have significantly reduced the risk of severe illness compared to just two doses of the vaccine.

Missouri, a red state mired in vaccine controversy, continues to be without a director of the Department of Health and Senior Services because of backlash over vaccine opinions. Don Kauerauf, the now-former director, resigned Feb. 2 after state Senate uproar from conservatives over his pro-vaccine stances. Gov. Mike Parson condemned the outcry.

The decline in cases globally has caused many states and countries to begin laxing mitigation efforts put in place during the height of the surge.

“We are discussing what it looks like to de-mitigate, but we’re not there yet,” Cullin said.

The University altered its mask mandate late in the fall, requiring masks in classrooms and meeting places where social distancing was not possible.

Local health officials continue to be cautiously optimistic, an outlook they’ve frequently held during the pandemic, about the future of Nodaway County.

“We’re not back to normal yet,” Patterson said.

Gov. Parson appoints Corey Herron as presiding judge for 4th Judicial Circuit

KENDRICK CALFEE
Editor-in-Chief I | @calfec_kc

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson appointed Judge Corey Herron as circuit judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Missouri Jan. 28.

Herron has been serving as associate circuit judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit and will now fill the circuit judge role, which became vacant after Judge Roger Prokes retired from the position in November.

In the months following Prokes’ retirement, Herron maintained his role as associate circuit judge, but he was also appointed by Parson as acting presiding judge for the 4th Circuit. Herron will continue that role and hear cases from Nodaway, Atchison, Holt, Gentry and Worth counties.

Herron has served the 4th Circuit in several capacities, including presiding over treatment court. Also known as drug court, treatment court is a way the justice system has worked with local and state resources to get repeat drug offenders help with addictions.

“(Treatment court) is probably one of the best things courts have done in a long time,” Herron said. “We have the authority of the courts behind us, and we have all the resources in place the best we can to provide people the help they need — and that they really can’t get any other way.”

Herron was born in Fairfax, Missouri, and was raised in Atchison County, near Rock Port, Missouri, on a family farm. He graduated from Rock Port High School and went on to attend the University of Missouri - Columbia to pursue a degree in law.

In college, he participated and became an officer in Phi Delta Alpha, a fraternity in the law school. The organization focused on both social and service activities.

Herron earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri. Following graduation, Herron passed the Missouri Bar Exam and began practicing law as a private attorney in 1996. He worked in that capacity out of Trenton, Missouri, at the law firm of Andereck, Evans, Milne, Widger & Johnson until December of 2008.

Then, Herron became associate circuit judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit, the role he held just before being appointed circuit judge by the governor at the end of January.

Now, with his combined 25 and 1/2 years in law, Herron looks forward to the experiences his new role in the 4th Judicial Circuit will give him. While the associate circuit judge position is not vastly different from his new role, it typically comes with more frequent trial and civil cases, Herron said.

From his experiences, Herron said he’s learned just how important the law is to society. Quoting another judge, he remembers “the law is hard, but it is the law.”

“It’s the only unifying constant we have ... in order to ensure fairness and a sense of order, and if we don’t follow it and just do whatever we want, then chaos reigns,” Herron said.



SUBMITTED
Missouri Gov. Mike Parson appointed Judge Corey Herron as circuit judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Missouri Jan. 28. After Roger Prokes’ retirement, Herron assumed the role of circuit judge and has served in the capacity since.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Feb. 10

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 5

There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm going off in Forest Village Apartments.

There is an open investigation for invasion of privacy in Millikan Hall.

Feb. 2

There is an open investigation for harassment in Forest Village Apartments.

Maryville Police Department

Feb. 7

A summons was issued to **Carl D. Dosztan**, 36, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 6

There is an ongoing investigation for stealing on the 300 block of North Market Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 200 block of East Halsey Street.

A summons was issued to **Aston M. Aborn**, 18, for a minor in possession, possession of a fake ID and equipment violation on the 700 block of East First Street.

Feb. 5

A summons was issued to **Noah C. Guastella**, 20, for a minor in possession, possession of a fake ID, failure to maintain financial responsibility and speeding on the 900 block of College Avenue.

Feb. 4

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny from a motor vehicle on the 100 block of East Edwards Street.

BLOOD

CONTINUED FROM A1

For the upcoming blood drive Feb. 16-17, the goal is 50 units a day, which was lowered from the previous drive where the goal was 80 unit, a significant decrease from the donations the blood center used to see from the University. Tinker said the CBC is looking to do anything it can to get people in the door to start donating blood.

“We’re trying to figure it out because the kids now, they are the future. If a person starts donating their high school and their college years, they will be a donor for life,” Tinker said. “It’s the ones that never donate, that don’t come in and try, they will probably never be a donor.”

Without being able to come up with enough blood to supply hospitals around Missouri and Kansas, Tinker said, hospitals will have to take measures to make sure they’re prioritizing the blood supply available to them.

“It’s getting tougher every single day,” Tinker said. “If everybody that could donate would donate, we would never have a blood shortage.”

TEACHERS

CONTINUED FROM A1

Northwest student teachers have well-passed their 60 credit hours by the time they start student teaching during their senior year, so they are encouraged to get their licenses to start substituting while they are in the school’s student teaching program.

Adrean Eskew, an education major with an emphasis in special education, is in his first semester of student teaching at Eugene Field Elementary, and he has found that having a substitute license comes in handy.

“It’s nice that you’re at the school already, and it gives you some experience. So it’s a win-win,” Eskew said.

He said he sees a lot of student teachers taking on substituting due to the shortage and the fact that some people don’t want to increase their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

“I’ve noticed some schools have had to completely shut down for a couple days just because they don’t have the teachers available to help administrators,” Eskew said. “Luckily enough, we have a bunch of student teachers. But, still, I mean, there’s some positions where we have to move people around to

uncomfortable positions because of COVID.”

Jessie Brown, an elementary education major student teaching at Eugene Field Elementary, said she finds being able to teach students outside of her classroom rewarding.

“One of the best parts about teaching is helping students with that ‘aha’ moment, where you don’t give them the answer, but you lead them to finding it on their own,” Brown said. “Getting to do that with students outside of the ones that I get to see every day is a truly rewarding experience.”

Brown is student teaching for third-grade teacher Liz Schieber and was a substitute for her on multiple occasions, in addition to being a student teacher. She said being a student teacher and then having the opportunity to teach outside of her classroom placement was an important learning opportunity.

“Being a student teacher and being a substitute teacher has taught me that I am prepared to run a classroom on my own,” Brown said. “Having to sub for my teacher on the first day of school was a daunting task, and I thought that I wouldn’t be able to handle it on my own when Mrs. Schieber left. Now I know that I am confident and collected when running my own classroom, and I know that I absolutely can do it all on my own.”



KENDRICK CALFEE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cobbler Cottage owner Kyle Mayes stands in front of his repairs table Feb. 8. Mayes has seen the retail side of his business struggle throughout the pandemic, but his repair shop continues to bring in regular customers.

COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM A1

The downtown square in Maryville was packed with cars today, but that, she said, was an anomaly of late.

“Like, today looks good — it’s a court day. That Iowa vehicle right there is down, probably doing their taxes,” Blair said, pointing to a black Chevrolet Traverse parked in front of her store.

Unlike Mayes, Blair can’t make a living just off her hands, though they go through countless hours of sorting, organizing and detail-oriented dusting. Her store consists of unique finds, collectables and some products from local custom designers.

Blair knows how to shop online but just never wanted to. Now, with prices of some items rising 800%, she’s glad a local market can supply her with plenty of products, maybe too much at times, she said.

In December 2020, the Missourian examined how the coronavirus infiltrated the small

business economy in Nodaway County. At the time, Josh McKim, the executive director of Nodaway County Economic Development, described how COVID-19-related shutdowns forced a few small businesses to close for good.

In 2020, the NCED was being told anywhere from 25-40% of small businesses were expected to fail nationwide.

From 2020 to 2021, Nodaway County saw a net gain of five businesses.

“I would not have guessed that, ever,” McKim said. “I think that’s a testament to, again, I think the county’s efforts to put together a business grant program, I think to the community at large and their efforts to support local businesses.”

“We just have got to continue to do that as long as we can because there are businesses who are still struggling,” McKim said.

On Jan. 27, the Nodaway County commissioners heard from several people, including McKim, regarding challeng-

es small businesses are having. In the meeting, the county pledged to set up a small business grant program, much like what it did with the CARES Act funding from 2020. Both Blair and Mayes attended the meeting to tell their story and explain why grant money would help keep their operations afloat.

McKim told the Missourian the county is currently considering a grant amount of up to \$5,000, but no number is yet set in stone.

“We’ve got to get through this hump,” McKim said. “I don’t know when the hump exactly ends, but I believe we are a good way through it.”

The economic outlook in Nodaway County isn’t as simple as small business hardships. This past year, the NCED drafted an initiative to bring people to Nodaway County for work.

The Your Way Nodaway campaign is designed to help fill hundreds of job openings in the county, as well as create new ones.

Nodaway County’s labor force saw a steady decrease over the last three months of 2021. The total number of people classified as either employed or unemployed went from 10,901 in October to 10,731 in December, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data.

Additionally, the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development shows the unemployment rate for Nodaway County was 4.6% in 2020. In December of 2021, the county’s unemployment rate was 1.8%.

McKim expects the campaign to officially launch within the next month.

Fraternity donates \$600 to local fire department

DESTINY HUBER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

The Maryville Fire Department received a \$600 check from the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Jan. 31 following the fraternity’s service project held last fall, the Fireman’s Challenge.

The money was raised through registration fees. Last fall, former Community Service Philanthropy Event Coordinator Kevin Nguyen of Northwest’s Pi Kappa Alpha contacted the Maryville Fire Department asking for its assistance in setting up the Fireman’s Challenge. The event had been discussed since the fraternity was founded in 2018.

“This is an event that a few of our chapters across the nation host,” Nguyen said. “It was exciting to be able to finally put pen to paper and make it happen.”

The Fireman’s Challenge was a week-long fundraiser planned and implemented by the fraternity. Events were spread over five days and included Pie-a-PIKE, a hot dog eating contest, a firefighter hose push, a dodgeball tournament and the Fireman’s Challenge.

For the last event, the Maryville Fire Department set up an obstacle course, which included advancing a charged hose line, hitting a target with a hose stream, swinging a sledgehammer and a life-size mannequin drag.

“One of the big pillars of any Greek organization is service. Anything we can do to have our members excited will help to increase our community engagement, and this was one of those events where we talked about it for years. But to finally be able to do it was super exciting,” Nguyen said. “But, overall, the biggest takeaway was community engagement. It may sound tedious, but it makes you feel good at the end of the day.”

The Fireman’s Challenge is to become an annual event. Next year, Pi Kappa Alpha member Aiden Thimjon will be managing the challenge.

“I hope to do a good job as the external vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha,” Thimjon said. “I learned that the firemen are really cool people. Doing an event with them was a great way to meet new people and do something new.”

Pi Kappa Alpha members benefitted from doing this event, but the Maryville Fire Department also said it was a rewarding experience.

“Those that participated enjoyed the events and learning about the job. For us, it was neat to see each of them challenged and humbled by the work,” firefighter Jace Pine said. “This was a group of respectful and grateful men that took their time to raise \$600 for our department.”

Not only were Pi Kappa Alpha members allowed to participate, but Northwest students were encouraged to take part in the challenge.

“The events that were supposed to be super big didn’t have a super big turnout, but the people who did show up had a really good time,” Nguyen said. “Not only that, but the Fire Department was super excited that this was just the first year, and we raised \$600 with it and that we got so much engagement and attention from it.”

In the future, the fraternity hopes to spread the news to more organizations about the event.

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FOR THE CULTURE:

Trauma not always needed in Black film



CORBIN SMITH Opinion Editor @curly_corbs

Media can be a blessing and a curse in the realm of education. Modern technology has made it possible for the masses to learn about anything in more entertaining ways than simply reading a textbook. However, the media can also misrepresent and stain certain topics. For example, Black culture isn't always portrayed in the media the way it probably should be.

We should all understand the Black community has a traumatic past, and it shouldn't be forgotten. Although salvery, segregation and the Black struggle are great educational tools in film, not every Black movie has to center around Black trauma.

Black journalist Jordan Lewis wrote about 30 films that celebrate Black joy, and she perfectly explains that the Black community deserves films about happy-go-lucky romance, cheesy coming-of-age stories and cultural explorations.

As a Black person, my fight against racism shouldn't define me, and it isn't what my life is all about. I laugh, cry and explore life with my friends. I have loving conversations with my family, and I get into petty arguments with my siblings about who ate the last piece of cake. It would be nice if films that reflected this part of life received the same attention as the films depicting the mud the Black community trudged through.

Movies like "Fruitvale Station," "The Hate U Give," "The Butler," "12 Years a Slave" and more are all eye-opening films that serve justice to their real-life counterparts. I appreciate movies like these because they highlight the dark, and sometimes recent, history of social injustice in the U.S. However, it hurts to watch them.

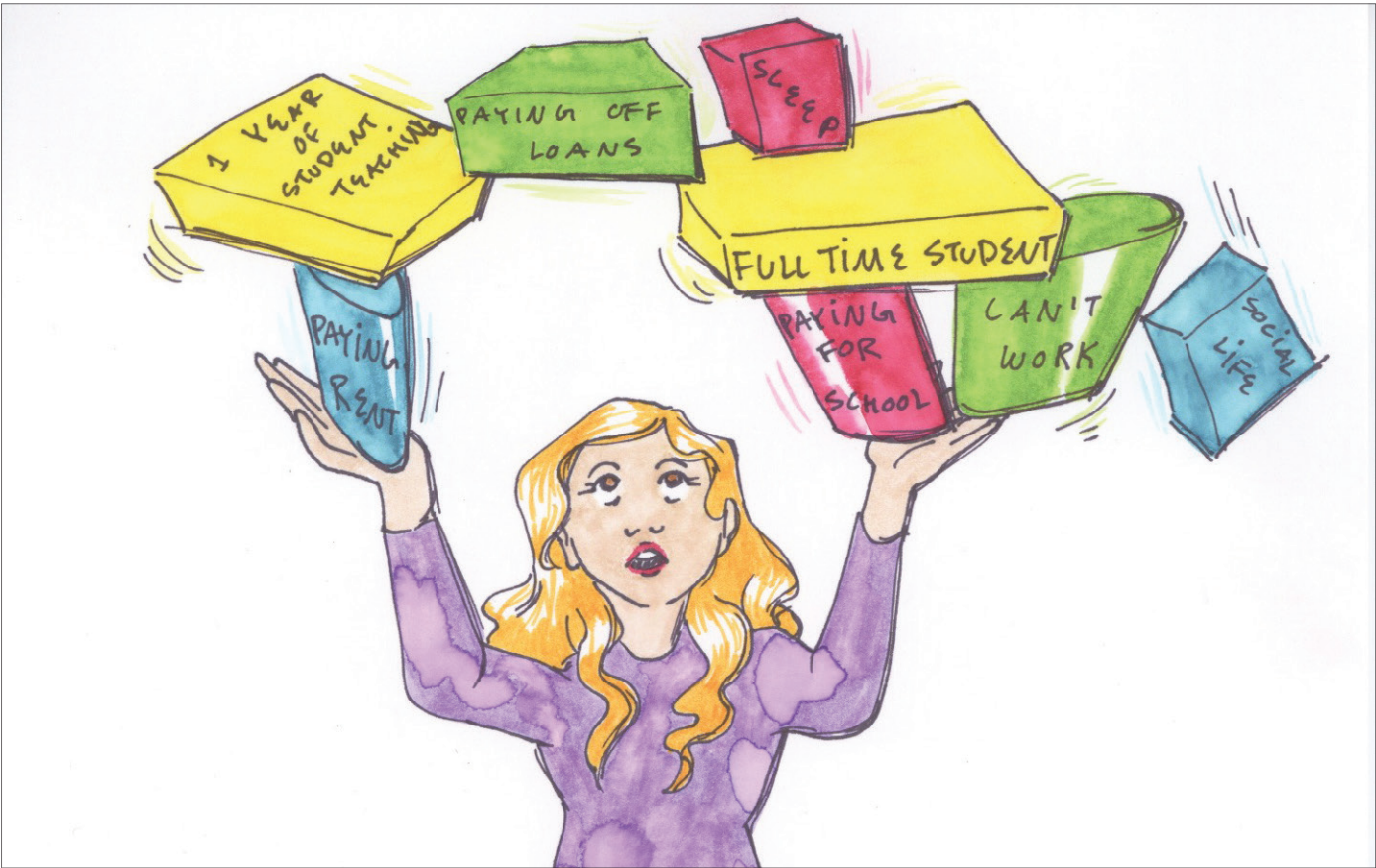
I can only handle watching people suffer for so long; it's like running a marathon without training. You start off with a sense of pride and power. After a few miles, your body starts to get tired and achy. A few more miles and all you can feel is pain — questioning why the marathon even exists.

Sometimes I need to see people like me succeed, laugh and enjoy life. I want to leave a movie night feeling like I can conquer the world or go to sleep without thinking about tragedies of the past.

It doesn't help that streaming services regularly market Black trauma movies as a "celebration" of Black History Month. Yay for inclusion and exposure, but why do only slavery and racially tense titles breach the forefront of platforms?

I guess it's also up to the people who want to celebrate Black history to find movies that highlight the good in Black culture. You can find a slew of Black movies with a single google search.

Black culture isn't always about the nitty gritty. It's beautiful, loving, creative and entertaining. I encourage people to break away from films focusing on Black trauma and find a movie focusing on Black culture in a different way.



ALEXANDRIA MESZ CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

Northwest shouldn't require yearlong student teaching

College life is tricky to balance. Trying to navigate classes while maintaining a healthy social schedule and a part-time job is stressful. If your parents aren't paying for college, it feels like the stress doubles. Imagine the life of the average education major.

At a certain point in their college curriculum, education majors are tasked with entering a real-life classroom to gain hands-on experience educating the next generation. Much like full-time teachers, they're not getting paid as well as they probably should. They are paying college tuition for the experience.

It's stressful enough to think that students take on the responsibility of making sure younger students are learning what they need to, but imagine the stress of not being able to pay rent because the job you dedicated most of your day to isn't supporting you financially. For elementary and special education majors, this stress lasts an entire school year.

What is the logic behind making elementary and special education majors teach longer? It can be argued that special education teachers require more experience with special needs students because of the training

required to adequately educate them. However, why has it been decided that only future teachers of a specific age need a full year?

It shouldn't be needed for practical experience. There's a national teacher shortage. States, including Missouri, are lowering requirements left and right to get more people to enter their schools. Why hold back numerous qualified candidates for another semester of experience they don't need?

If the University is truly saying these future teachers need more time, then it should be consistent at all levels. If not, the University is either cheating students out of experience or overworking those who teach for a full year.

The idea of working without pay is disheartening to anybody; it's worse for teachers because of the current average salary. Missouri's average salary for teachers in 2020 was slightly less than \$51,000, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

If Northwest prides itself on its education program, it shouldn't use unnecessary tactics to prepare its students for the real world. Forcing students to rely on loans to make it

through undergrad isn't the best look, especially for one of Missouri's most affordable four-year institutions.

Many students in the U.S. are scared to go to college because they're unsure of how to pay for it. Northwest's approach to experience-based learning somewhat reinforces students' fears. That shouldn't be the case.

Even if a student isn't paying for college by themselves, they still have to pay rent if they don't return to teach in their hometown and live with previous guardians. Many college students work a part-time job during school to pay for whatever they might need outside of school. Asking education majors to work two jobs for the pay of one is unreasonable. Northwest should work something out to help students financially while they prepare for their future careers.

These future educators are deciding to enter a field where they will likely be underpaid, overworked, vilified and used as political cannon fodder. Does the University really want to be in the business of making their jobs, their futures, their lives, harder?

YOUR VIEW:

Should student teachers be required to teach for a full year?

AIMEN ZIESKE Sophomore Instrumental Music Education



"Since I'm already here so long as a music education major, I would say no. Most of us are already here for five or six years."

AUBREY PETERSON Sophomore Vocal Music Education



"No. I already think it's ridiculous that we're supposed to work a 9-5 for a semester without being paid."

SHELBY WILLIAMS Sophomore Elementary Education



"It's unfair to require us to do a whole year because everyone else doesn't have to and we learn the same in one semester as we would in two."

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves sympathy for colds

There's a societal shift of cataclysmic proportions happening. Ever since the beginning of this never-ending Panda Express, nobody seems to give me sympathy for my cold anymore.

Yeah, my throat hurts a little. Yes, one nostril contains the moisture of a Floridian's armpit in June, and the other is drier than a Missouri Western forward's jumper. And not another soul — including my own mother — seems to care. John Green has already de-

cided to write his next novel about my tragic story, which will inevitably be made into a meh movie. It will star an actor and actress from separate snooze-inducing dystopia teen dramas. It will make \$65 million at the box office in 2026, and one of your dumb little cousins will call it the saddest movie of all time.

Anyway, why am I not allowed to turn my minor inconvenience into my identity for a few days now? The rest of you

only seem to pay attention to the conversation until I tell you I don't have COVID-19, and then you tune out. Hello, I'm trying to tell you about my interesting escapades with cold and flu medication, and you have already lost interest.

There's also no excuse for not doing work when you're sick. Back in my day — I peaked in high school, so, like, five or so years ago — it was illegal to use WiFi for productive purposes while sick.

Now, I can't enjoy the chicken noodle soup that my mother Venmoed me for in peace without someone sending me an email "regarding something for class." Leave me alone, buddy; these Florence Pugh movies aren't going to watch themselves.

When someone comes up and tells you they have a cold, act like it's a big deal. To them, it is.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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STUNG
CONTINUED FROM A8

The Bearcats (21-3, 14-2 MIAA) had their season-worst offensive output against the Hornets (17-6, 12-5 MIAA), but for the first few minutes, both teams struggled to find any sort of rhythm.

Northwest and Emporia, combined, missed the game’s first 10 shots before Hornets forward Brenden Van Dyke made a layup with 15 minutes and 40 seconds left in the first half.

And just when nothing was going for the ‘Cats, sophomore forward Luke Waters answered Van Dyke’s layup with one of his own. Waters used the ensuing possession to step into and drain a 3-pointer.

“It just happened that way,” said Waters, who finished with 16 points while going 7-for-9. “I was looking to be aggressive to start the game, and it just worked out that way.”

Waters cut through the lane and got a layup to go a few moments later to help give Northwest an 11-6 lead over Emporia.

But the scoring struggles continued for Northwest. They didn’t, however, continue for Emporia.

The Hornets used a 10-0 run to take a 16-11 lead before sophomore forward Wes Dreamer made a shot from beyond the arc to resuscitate Northwest’s then-anemic offense. That kept the ‘Cats battling for the next few minutes.

Northwest, which trailed 23-18 with five minutes left in the first half, didn’t score before halftime. The Bearcats had five turnovers in that span, allowing the Hornets to use a 9-0 run to take a 32-18 lead into the break.

“I thought our defense was fine,” McCollum said of the Bearcats, who held Emporia to 43.3% from the field in the first half. “Our offense was absolutely atrocious.”

Things didn’t get much better for the Bearcats in the second half, and it’s in large part due to Emporia’s guard tandem of senior Jumah’Ri Turner and graduate student Tray Buchanan.

The two entered the contest as the top-scoring backcourt in the country, averaging a combined 47.1 points per game. Buchanan, who transferred to Emporia from South Dakota State, averaged a nation-best 27.2 points prior to Tuesday night.

Those two took over in the sec-

ond half, as Buchanan finished with a game-high 29 to go along with Turner’s 20. The duo combined for 26 points in the first before scoring 23 in the second.

“Those two guards, they’re really good,” Waters said. “We just gotta be better.”

We’ll figure it out;
it’s still February.
...We feel like we
can right the ship.

-LUKE WATERS
NORTHWEST MEN’S
BASKETBALL SOPHOMORE
FORWARD

Northwest had shot 50% or better in 17 of its 23 games before Tuesday night. The ‘Cats mustered a clip of 37.7% (20-for-53) against the Hornets — a performance that marks their

worst since their first loss of the season back in mid-November.

It was uncharacteristic for a squad that was riding a nine-game win streak and hadn’t shot less than 55.6% in five straight games.

“We had a really good game plan going in,” Waters said. “We, honestly, just did not execute it, for whatever reason. It was mainly what we did to ourselves rather than what they did to us.”

McCollum wasn’t too concerned with the Xs and Os of only his third ever loss to Emporia’s program, though.

He didn’t care that junior guard Trevor Hudgins had just notched the 67th 20-point game of his career. He didn’t care that his team had just held the Hornets to 31.6% (6 of 19) from beyond the arc. And he didn’t even care about his program’s biggest loss since a 17-point defeat courtesy of Missouri Southern Feb. 18, 2017.

He knew what the problem was right then and there.

“Right now, we’re just lacking a great deal of toughness, a great deal of willpower, a great deal of all of that,” McCollum said. “I think, sometimes, you can mis-

take playing hard with playing with purpose, intensity and toughness. We’re just not playing with any toughness right now.”

McCollum and company will get a rematch with Emporia in a mere eight days, when the ‘Cats will start a two-game homestand Feb. 17 in Bearcat Arena.

That’s not what they’ll be focused on in the meantime. Instead, they’ll be forced to turn their attention to the final pair of contests to finish a four-game road trip.

Regardless of having three losses in a season for the first time 2017-18, the ‘Cats aren’t panicking before facing MIAA foe Pitt State Feb. 10 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

“We’ll figure it out,” Waters said. “It’s still February. We want to be playing our best basketball in March, and we know it’s a short ways away, but we feel like we can right the ship.”

McCollum’s OK with that mindset. He doesn’t need his players to panic. He just needs them to be a little tougher.

“Usually, when you lose like this, you don’t wanna beat them up too bad,” McCollum said. “We’re going to. We need to change, and we need to change fast.”

MCCONKEY
CONTINUED FROM A8

Just when it looked like Northwest was going to be behind at halftime for the third consecutive game, a layup by McConkey with 3:36 to go until intermission gave the Bearcats a 26-25 lead.

“We were just mentally tough tonight,” Meyer said in the aftermath of Northwest’s win. “I thought we did a good job of just being fundamentally sound. We got some easy buckets by just taking care of the ball.”

After McConkey’s layup, the Bearcats would not surrender the lead for the rest of the game.

The third quarter came, and it was used to extend the Bearcats’ lead to 51-40 before the final frame.

The fourth quarter went similar to the two quarters before it, and Northwest outscored Emporia 19-14 the rest of the way.

Northwest came into the game at No. 2

in the MIAA in scoring defense, allowing just 55 points per game. With 54 points allowed against Emporia, Northwest made good on its ranking.

“They buy into our defensive system,” Meyer said of his players. “They work really hard at it. We recruit kids that defend at a high level.”

The defense was not without the offense, however, as the Bearcats reached 70 points for the fourth time this season.

The biggest contributor to the scoring output was McConkey, who totaled a personal season-high and game-high 27 points.

One of the biggest contributors to her scoring output was the 12 points she got from the 3-point line. She was 6-for-13 (46.2%) from 3 through the team’s first 21 games, but was 4-for-4 from beyond the arc against the Hornets.

“She was really focused, and she was in an attack mentality,” Meyer said.

“I don’t usually shoot that many, because I try to get to the rim more than shooting

outside,” McConkey said. “But, I mean, they were there, and I started taking them and they went in. I was just building confidence, and I thought, ‘Why not keep shooting?’”

Northwest won’t have long before its next road test and will remain in Kansas for its second matchup of the season against Pittsburg State (13-9) Feb. 10.

The first game between the Bearcats and Gorillas ended in a 66-62 win for the Bearcats Jan. 3 in Bearcat Arena. The win ended a 16-game losing streak to Gorillas for Northwest.

Meyer said he’s proud of the team’s accomplishments and how it’s now ended two long losing streaks. But, he said, there’s still room to grow.

“We’re trying to get our program to a higher level,” Meyer said. “These are good boxes to check for our program, but we got to make sure we just keep getting better.”

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SENIOR
CONTINUED FROM A8

Cruickshank drained another 3-pointer before a Maryville free throw was able to halt the Dragons’ 10-point run. With the Spoofhounds down 28-23, Quinlin was able to spark a 13-point run with a fast-break layup and a put-back layup. Another 3-pointer from Cruickshank ended the half with a Maryville lead 36-33.

Maryville was able to shut down Cameron’s 3-point game in the third quarter, and the Spoofhounds rallied behind unselfish senior leader Wilnerd in his last game at the ‘Hound Pound.

“I’ve tried to embrace my role as a leader the best I can, at least. I am trying to make them better,” Wilnerd said.

Through Wilnerd’s inside-out passes, Maryville was able to knock down two 3-pointers in the quarter and continue to beat Cameron off the dribble to create a 54-44 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Dragons would not stay quiet from the 3-point line for long, as junior guard Graden

Hammond was able to pull Cameron within 6 points. Junior guard Caden Stoecklein — who ended the night with 21 points — didn’t feel the pressure of the Dragons closing in and was able to make five free throws in the fourth quarter to maintain Maryville’s lead.

“Growing up, I’ve always loved the pressure and close games,” Stoecklein said. “It (free throws) comes natural, and I like to be the person to go up and knock them down.”

Despite Best having a game-high 30 points, Maryville was able to secure a senior-night win for Wilnerd, beating the Dragons 74-68.

“It kinda hit me after the game that this is going to be the last time I’ll play in front of a crowd like this. I respect this town so much, and I’m going to miss everything about basketball,” Wilnerd said.

The Spoofhounds say goodbye to the ‘Hound Pound for the 2021-22 season and will face MEC foe Benton Feb. 11 in St. Joseph.

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GAMES

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Pittsburg, Kansas

@ **Missouri Southern**
3:30 p.m. Feb. 12
Joplin, Missouri

NW WBB

@ **Pitt State**
5:30 p.m. Feb. 10
Pittsburg, Kansas

@ **Missouri Southern**
1:30 p.m. Feb. 12
Joplin, Missouri

NW BSB

@ **Ouachita Baptist**
1 p.m. Feb. 11
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

@ **Southern Arkansas**
6 p.m. Feb. 11
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

@ **St. Cloud State**
2:30 p.m. Feb. 12
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

@ **Henderson State**
11 a.m. Feb. 13
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

NW T&F

Gorilla Classic
Feb. 11-12
Pittsburg, Kansas

MHS BBB

@ **Benton**
7:30 p.m. Feb. 11
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ **Creston Community**
7:30 p.m. Feb. 15
Creston, Iowa

MHS GBB

vs. Benton
7:15 p.m. Feb. 10
Hound Pound

@ **Cameron**
6:30 p.m. Feb. 14
Cameron, Missouri

MHS WRES

Varsity Districts
Feb. 11-12
Excelsior Springs, Missouri



DAVID DERKS MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Northwest men's baseball infielder Alex Bowers waits for practice to resume inside the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Northwest will play against St. Cloud State University Feb. 12 and will play Henderson State Feb. 13.

Baseball gets first win of
season beind pitching ace

LANDEN CRABTREE
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

In the first game of the season for Northwest baseball, junior pitcher Max Spitzmiller got the start against Ouachita Baptist University Feb. 5 and threw a shutout through eight innings for a 1-0 victory.

Spitzmiller started the game with a hit-by-pitch before getting the next two batters out and then getting his first of nine strikeouts to end the first inning. The Bearcats got the only run of the game in the second inning off a sophomore outfielder Kaleb Harrison single to bring in senior outfielder Donavon Warren.

Through eight innings of work, Spitzmiller finished the game with nine strikeouts, no walks, and one hit-by-pitch. Junior pitcher Alex Slocum came in for the save, striking out two batters in the ninth to finish the win over Ouachita

Baptist University 1-0.

Spitzmiller earned MIAA pitcher of the week for his efforts and Dugan Invite All-Tournament team with teammate Warren.

“Wanted to compete and help my team win,” Spitzmiller said about his opening day performance.

Despite the win on opening day, the Bearcats did not build off the victory. In their next game of the Dugan Invitational Feb. 6, they lost 2-1 to Henderson State in walk-off fashion.

Junior infielder Brett Holden scored the Bearcats’ first run of the game in the fourth on a Warren fielder’s choice. The Bearcats were able to get a runner to third base in the top half of the 10th but were unable to get the run across home plate. Junior pitcher Alexander Lovin was credited for the loss after giving up a home run to Henderson junior infielder Pate Fullerton in the bottom

of the 10th inning.

Northwest finished the tournament with a defeat to No. 11 Southern Arkansas. Southern Arkansas opened the scoring up with two in the first and scored two more in the fifth before the Bearcats were able to get junior utility Tyler Peters across home plate for their first run of the game. Northwest would give up three runs in the eighth and the ninth to lose 10-2.

Northwest will look to bounce back after going 1-2 in the Dugan Invitational as the Bearcats hit the road for the Henderson State Invitational Feb. 11-13 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. There they will rematch with Ouachita Baptist, Henderson State and No. 11 Southern Arkansas Feb. 11. Northwest will also play against St. Cloud State University Feb. 12 and will play Henderson State Feb. 13 to finish the Henderson State Invitational.

Track and field junior breaks
program’s 3,000-meter record

DAVID DERKS
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Junior Caroline Cunningham did something she never thought would happen Feb. 2 at the Bearcat Open inside the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse.

Cunningham became the first athlete in Northwest track and field history to run the 3,000-meter indoor race under 10 minutes, finishing with a time of 9 minutes, 59 seconds and 99 milliseconds. The previous record was held by Angela

Adams with a time of 10:01.50 Feb. 28, 2010.

“It was really exciting,” Cunningham said. “I’ve been chipping away at the 10-minute barrier for, like, three years now. Last year, I just about tied the school record, so this year to break it is really exciting. I’m second in school history on, like, five other lists, so to actually have a school record is very exciting and really meaningful to me.”

Cunningham said it’s going to be tough to get those other five

school records this year but believes she can reach them next year. While she didn’t hit the Division II provisional mark, she was happy with finishing with a time under 10 minutes.

“In high school, I never thought I could go sub-10, my goal would’ve been sub-11,” Cunningham said. “But the last two years, I’ve been in the low 10s, and I’ve been working for it and working for it. And year after year, I’m told ‘Oh, it’s coming together; you’re gonna get it,’ and then to actually do it was such a good feeling. I actually cried happy tears at the end.”

Sophomore Sarah Prickett ran an NCAA provisional qualifying time and the third-fastest 60-meter indoor hurdles time in Bearcat history, with a time of 8.83. That marked a personal best for Prickett.

“Last week, I ran an 8.84, and so this week, my goal was literally 8.83,” Prickett said. “That’s the provisional mark, so that was the goal in my head. I knew I had some more meets to make that mark, but that was really my goal this weekend so I could stop focusing on a time.”

Sophomore Jada Shanklin marked the second-highest jump in the country with an NCAA provisional jump of 5 feet and 10 inches. She tied the mark set by Jacobschelle Sasser Feb. 10, 1995.

Redshirt freshman Ally Hammond had success in both the 60-meter hurdles and the 60-meter dash, producing the fifth-best women’s 60 hurdles



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Shelby Butterfield competes in the Bearcat Invite long jump Feb. 4 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Butterfield finished 15th with a score of 4.93 meters in the long jump.

time in program history at 8.88 and the fourth-best women’s 60-meter dash time in program history at 7.65. She also secured an NCAA provisional time with her 60-meter dash performance.

Two other Bearcats took the crown in their respective competitions, as sophomore Blake Morgan jumped 6 feet, 11 inches in high jump, and redshirt fresh-

man Reece Smith recorded a time of 8:12.87 in the 3,000-meter.

The Bearcats have one more regular-season meet at the Seventh Annual Indoor Gorilla Classic Feb. 11-12 in Pittsburg, Kansas, before hosting the 2022 MIAA Indoor Championships on the Northwest campus inside the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse Feb. 25-27.

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ROAD WORK AHEAD

No. 2 Bearcats upset by Emporia amid four-game trip

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

EMPORIA, Kan. — Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum knew the game would eventually end and he would have to take off his usual green tie.

The 13th-year coach follows the same routine each time, unknotting the tie before gently folding it and placing it in his pocket during a game's waning moments.

He's used to doing so as the final seconds dwindle down amid another one of his team's double-digit victories, but that wasn't the case Tuesday night in the north-west corner of William Lindsay White Civic Auditorium.

McCollum, with his tie in hand, couldn't do anything other than watch with three minutes left in the No. 2 Bearcats' 75-56 loss to MIAA foe Emporia State.

"It's not, like, a sick feeling," McCollum said. "You just didn't play, didn't show up. We didn't show up, and they played great; they had a lot to do with it. That's what happens — you just get beat."

SEE STUNG | A6



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR

Northwest men's basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins goes up and under for a layup during the No. 2 Bearcats' 75-56 loss to MIAA foe Emporia State Feb. 8 in Emporia, Kansas. Hudgins was 7-for-17 with a team-high 20 points.

Women snap decade-long skid to Hornets

WESLEY MILLER
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

EMPORIA, Ks. — With back-to-back losses in the rearview, Northwest women's basketball was looking for a chance to get back into the win column.

The first chance was against Emporia State Feb. 8 in Emporia, Kansas (11-11).

Not only did the Bearcats take advantage of the chance, they did so in historic fashion.

"We had a lot of people make things happen," Northwest coach Austin Meyer said.

The Bearcats made things happen to the tune of a 70-54 win over the Hornets. The 16-point triumph gave Northwest its 15th win on the season — the first season with 15 wins since the 2012-13 season.

However, it was more than just the Bearcats 15th win. For the first time since Jan. 2, 2002, they (15-7) defeat-

ed the Hornets in White Auditorium, and it was the first win for the 'Cats over Emporia since March 6, 2011 — losing the previous 13 contests between the two squads.

"It's a lot of fun winning somewhere that Northwest hasn't in 20 or so years," senior guard Mallory McConkey said.

Through the first quarter of play, the Hornets outscored the Bearcats 14-12. A layup by freshman guard Evelyn Vazquez tied the game at 14 a piece within the first 10 seconds of the second quarter.

It took a mere 25 seconds for Emporia to reclaim the lead after a pair of free throws from freshman guard Ehlaina Hartman.

From there on, the Hornets played keep-away from the Bearcats with the lead and remained in front for a majority of the second quarter.

SEE MCCONKEY | A6



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR

Northwest women's basketball senior guard Mallory McConkey fights through contact for a layup during the Bearcats' 70-54 win over Emporia State Feb. 8 in Emporia, Kansas. McConkey had a season- and game-high 27 points.

'Hounds rout Dragons for Senior Night, final home game of season

JADEN FERGUSON
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville boys basketball played its final home game of the season Feb. 8 in a rematch with MEC foe Cameron.

Maryville (11-10) defeated Cameron (1-9) less than two weeks ago 71-61 Jan. 28 in the Cameron Tournament. In the second game between the two squads Feb. 8, the Spoofhounds started the game strong against Cameron and took an early 7-2 lead, until Cameron junior guards TJ Best and Dayln Cruickshank ignited the Dragon offense and combined for a 7-point run to take a 13-9 lead.

"We didn't get out on their shooters, and we knew those were

their shooters," Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein said.

The Spoofhounds were able to end the Dragon run with a fast-break layup from sophomore guard Derek Quinlin. Back-to-back 3s by the Spoofhounds closed the first quarter tied at 18.

Lone senior forward Spencer Wilnerd opened the second quarter with a 3-point play, but Best continued his hot hand with back-to-back 3s, leading to a Maryville timeout.

"Effort and energy was there, but it goes back to making the right decision and listening to the scouting report," Stoecklein said. "They have got to focus a little bit better on the choices they make on the floor."

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Maryville senior Spencer Wilnerd makes a contested layup during the game against Cameron Feb. 8 at the Hound Pound. The game was won by the Spoofhounds with an ending score of 74-68

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